AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled).

2. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:

by computer, identifying a trade of a traded instrument or item occurring at an outlier price deviating from a benchmark price, the benchmark price being a price or range of prices at which the instrument or item would have traded in absence of market distortion, the identifying being based at least in part on monitoring prices at which trades of the instrument or item occur over a time interval; and

distributing at least a portion of profits earned because of the deviation of the price of the outlier-price trade from the benchmark price, to at least one of a plurality of distributee participants in a market for the traded instrument or item.

3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising distributing the profits attributable to the deviation to at least one of the distributee market participants in proportion to a share of profits attributable to the deviation obtained from the distributee market participants.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, the monitoring of prices comprising sampling the trading price at pre-determined intervals.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the benchmark price is determined based at least in part by determining a running average trading price.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the benchmark price is determined based at least in part by determining a median trading price.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the benchmark price is determined based at least in part by determining a mode trading price.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the benchmark price relative to which deviation of the outlier-priced trade is evaluated includes a range of benchmark trading prices.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the benchmark price relative to which deviation of the outlier-priced trade is evaluated includes a last-in-time trading price.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, ,wherein the benchmark price is determined based at least in part by determining a weighted average trading price.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising implementing the method in an electronic trading platform.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the instrument or item includes one or more of electricity, natural gas, energy, and oil.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, the monitoring further comprising monitoring a plurality of trading prices.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the monitoring prices at which trades of the instrument or item occur over a time interval includes monitoring for prices remaining stable within a relatively small percentage range.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the prices monitored to determine a benchmark price include prices for trades occurring after the outlier-price trade.

18. (previously presented) A computer program embodied on a tangible medium, the program instructing a computer to:

identify a trade of a traded instrument or item that occurred at an outlier price deviating from a benchmark price, the benchmark price being a price or range of prices at which the instrument or item would have traded in absence of market distortion, the identifying being based at least in part on monitoring prices at which trades of the instrument or item occur over a time interval; and

generate a request that at least a portion of profits earned because of the deviation of the price of the outlier-price trade from the benchmark price, be distributed to at least one of a plurality of distributee participants in a market for the traded instrument or item.

19. (previously presented) The program of claim 18, the program further instructing the computer to:

distribute the profits attributable to the deviation to at least one of a plurality of distributee market participants harmed by the deviation from the benchmark price in proportion to a share of profits attributable to the deviation obtained from the distributee market participants.

20. (previously presented) The program of claim 18, wherein the benchmark price relative to which deviation of the outlier-priced trade is evaluated includes a range of benchmark trading prices.

21. (previously presented) The program of claim 18, ,wherein the benchmark price is determined based at least in part by determining a weighted average trading price.

22. (previously presented) The program of claim 18, wherein the instrument or item includes one or more of electricity, natural gas, energy, and oil.

23. (previously presented) The program of claim 18, wherein the monitoring prices at which trades of the instrument or item occur over a time interval includes monitoring for prices remaining stable within a relatively small percentage range.

24. (previously presented) The program of claim 18, wherein the prices monitored to determine a benchmark price include prices for trades occurring after the outlier-price trade.

25. (previously presented) A method performed by a trader in a market for an instrument or item, comprising the steps of:

entering an order into an electronic trading market for the instrument or item, and having that order executed by an electronic platform for the market, the trade occurring at an outlier price deviating from a benchmark price, the benchmark price being a price or range of prices at which the instrument or item would have traded in absence of market distortion; and

receiving notification from the electronic trading platform of a redistribution of profits either to the trader from other traders in the market, or from the trader to other traders, the amount of the redistribution being based at least in part on identification of the deviation of the price of the outlier-price trade from the benchmark price.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the redistribution of profits is based at least in part on a proportion of market share attributable to market participants.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising distributing the profits attributable to the deviation to at least one of the market participants in proportion to a share of profits attributable to the deviation obtained from the distributee market participants.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the benchmark price is determined based at least in part by determining a running average trading price over a time interval.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the benchmark price relative to which deviation of the outlier-priced trade is evaluated includes a range of benchmark trading prices.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the benchmark price is determined based at least in part by determining a weighted average trading price.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, the monitoring further comprising monitoring a plurality of trading prices.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the prices monitored to determine a benchmark price include prices for trades occurring after the outlier-price trade.

33. (new) The method of claim 2, the monitoring further comprising monitoring a plurality of trading prices, the monitored instruments or items including at least electricity, the monitoring of prices comprising sampling the trading price at pre-determined intervals and maintaining a running period of the samples falling within a range, to determine a mode among the samples of a running period.